

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **24 MAY 2005**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
1008P005PCTf

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/SG2005/000089

International filing date (day/month/year)
22 March 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
8 April 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int. Cl.⁷ B05C 17/02

Applicant
ERH, Poh Soon

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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PCT/SG2005/000089

Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
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- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | With regard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

<input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)). |
| 2. | With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

<input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing
<input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

<input type="checkbox"/> in written format
<input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

<input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.
<input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
<input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search. |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished. |
| 4. | Additional comments: |

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 4-5, 7-12	YES
	Claims 1-3, 6	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 7-12	YES
	Claims 1-6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-12	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

1. US 3933415
2. WO 2003/082479
3. NL 8301130

Novelty (N) Claims 1-3, 6

Citation 1 discloses all the features of claims 1-3, 6. The citation discloses an edging device for painting into corners, along edges, or along adjacent surfaces where paint is only desired on one of the surfaces. Figure 9 illustrates an edger roller with a truncated conical sponge applicator. The roller includes a coupler end, a distal end, and a paint absorbable member between the two ends. A circular sealing plate at the coupler end and a circular plate at the distal end are disclosed in column 7, lines 35-50 and figure 9. A foraminous shaft to receive the paint is provided between the plates and the paint flows from the openings on the shaft into the sponge applicator (column 7, lines 10-14, 40-42). A shield is also provided at the distal end of the roller whereby the straight edge of the shield is pressed against the painting surface and prevents any paint or paint splatter from marking the adjacent wall or surface.

Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-6

Claims 1-3, 6 as above.

Claims 1-6 do not involve an inventive step when Citation 2 is combined with Citation 3. Citation 2 discloses all the features of claims 1-6 except for the provision of a circular integral guard. See figure 6 and pages 2 and 6. Citation 3 discloses a frustoconical-shaped paint roller with a contact ring on the coupler end. This ring prevents the paint absorbable member from making contact with an adjacent surface. See the abstract and figure 1. It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art (PSA) to combine Citations 2 and 3 which would then disclose all the features of claims 1-6.

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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

- a) Claim 4 is not totally clear because the claim states that the chamber is “assessable” by a closable inlet. Based on the description, it appears the term “assessable” was intended to be “accessible”.